

Appendix

National 4-H Strategic Directions Team

Responsibilities of the National 4-H Strategic Directions Team

The National 4-H Strategic Directions Team (4-HSDT), a youth/adult partnership, has a major role in developing, envisioning, monitoring and evaluating the National 4-H Strategic Plan. It is also the responsibility of this body to maintain the integrity and ensure the evolving character of this plan. 4-HSDT functions as the Base Program Strategic Team (BPST) for the Cooperative Extension System Base Program of 4-H Youth Development. Specifically, their roles are to:

1. Develop and communicate a national 4-H strategy that captures the vision and suggests strategic directions for the coming years. Conduct a broad-based strategy process every 3-5 years that addresses emerging social and youth-related issues as they relate to 4-H youth development.
 - a. Build and incorporate into the Cooperative Extension System an inclusive process for feedback.
 - b. Create and envision new approaches for how the 4-H youth development movement can have a worldwide impact.
 - c. Provide guidance for integration of graduated initiatives into the base program of 4-H Youth Development.
2. Scan the environment to identify emerging issues and modify the Strategic Plan, as needed. Develop and maintain a process for identification and recommendation of faculty, staff and youth/adult volunteer development needs.
 - a. Gather trend data and input from a diversity of people and different perspectives.
 - b. Provide a forum for all stakeholders.
 - c. Provide a means for youth to be heard throughout all levels of 4-H.
 - d. Review and integrate research from the fields of youth development, public policy and community-based leadership. Use the information to guide recommendations and decisions.
3. Monitor and support the implementation of the national 4-H strategy, with particular attention on recognizing youth as equal partners; access, equity and opportunity for all youth; the scholarship and practice of experiential learning; strengthening volunteer and professional development; advancing the field of youth development education; and, striving for more effective organizational systems.
 - a. Work closely with the National 4-H Leadership Trust in overseeing implementation.
 - b. Monitor the progress towards the accomplishment of the principles and goals of the national 4-H strategic plan and communicate the results systemwide.
 - c. Collect and disseminate 4-H *Programs of Excellence* annually to demonstrate the progress of the plan and the impact of the programs.
 - d. Communicate throughout the Cooperative Extension System (CES) 4-H Youth Development Network the necessary information for measuring impacts and outcomes of 4-H Youth Development programs for required reports.

Membership and Time Commitment

Membership on the National 4-H Strategic Directions Team is representative and diverse. The criteria for reviewing membership applications, therefore, include regional representation, stakeholder representation and racial/ethnic/economic diversity. As applications are evaluated, every effort is made to identify representatives who bring perspective and experience from a broad range of 4-H Youth Development programs—including those programs that target youth in “at-risk” environments, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education (EFNEP) programs and other expansion efforts.

Membership of the team is composed of:

- 9 Youth (2 per region and 1 per 1890 representative)
- 4 Volunteers (1 per region)
- 4 State Program Leaders (1 per region)
- 1 Past SDT Chair (usually a State Program Leader)
- 1-2 CSREES representatives
- 1 Program Leadership Committee (PLC) representative
- 1 State 4-H Foundation Director
- 1 State 4-H Program Specialist
- 1 National 4-H Council representative
- 1 1890 Region representative
- 1 National 4-H Youth Development Council (N4-HYDC) intern
- 1 NAE4-HA representative
- 1 Agent-at-large representative

A seven-member executive committee is composed of one volunteer, current SDT chair, past SDT chair, CSREES representative, National 4-H Council representative, N4-HYDC intern and NAE4-HA representative.

The work of the N4-HSDT is conducted through electronic communication, web-based technologies, listservs, monthly conference calls and biannual meetings.

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October 2002**

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